

IOWA BIRD LIFE



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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CHRISTMAS COUNT



The 1967 Christmas Bird Census In Iowa

compiled by
PETER PETERSEN, JR.
235 McClelland Blvd.
DAVENPORT, IOWA

There was a slight decrease in the number of participants, from 261 to 253 and stations from 30 to 28, both probably accounting in part for a decrease in species from 109 to 107. The only species seen for the first time was the Black-legged Kittiwake at Davenport, which was the second Iowa record. Davenport also recoreded an Eared Grebe for the second Christmas Census record. Shoveler and Yellow-headed Blackbird were seen for the third time. Several stations were not heard from this year but some new localities reported for the first time. The complete Council Bluffs-Omaha census appears for the first time. For the thirteenth consecutive year Davenport leads all stations with 77 species, the highest species count ever reported on an Iowa census. This was the result of nearly ideal weather conditions. A field technique used for the second time but to a greater degree this year at Clinton, Davenport, and Muscatine was the use of a tape recorder to stimulate calling by owls in the hour before dawn. Several parties on these three counts used this method of censusing owls with good results. Screech, Horned and Barred Owls will answer a recording of their calls, especially when the temperature is over 20 and the wind is light. It will be noted that these three stations were the only ones reporting all three of the above mentioned species.

The most notable feature of the census was the lack of "winter finches." The most dependable, the Purple Finch, was seen at only three stations, compared to 13 the previous year. Pine Siskin and Common Redpoll were seen at only one station each and Evening Grosbeak was not seen, although it was found during the count period. The Red-shouldered Hawk remains at a low population level with the same number found as in 1966, eight. Bald Eagles were present in average numbers for recent years and such migrant species as Yellow-shafted Flicker and Red-headed Woodpecker were back to normal after last years highs. Many compilers commented on the lack of the common visitors to feeders, but the overall picture is not too far from average. The lack of snow cover often causes a greater spread of these species and reduces the number seen.

While most of the compilers did an excellent job on their reports several were not typewritten. It is hoped that next year all reports will be prepared in accordance with instructions. The accompanying map shows the location of the Christmas count areas with the area of the circle being equal to the approximate size of the territory. Number is in center of circle, name below

or to right. Gaps where new counts could be made are quite apparent. Should any member feel the inclination for assuming the job of compiling the count, done so ably for ten-years by Woodward Brown, please contact the editor.

1. ALEDO, ILLINOIS (15 mile diameter circle, center 2 miles south of Joy, Illinois, including Lock 17 and Lake Odessa, same as previous years) Dec. 31; 7:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. -5 to -0 F.; wind 5-15 m.p.h. from N.W. Overcast, clearing late a.m., 2" snow on ground, river 90% ice covered. Observers (8) in 4 parties; Wendel Bergstrom, Allen Carlson, Elton Fawks, Ted Greer, Dick Greer (compiler), T. James Lewis, Jr., Peter Petersen, Jr., John White.

Other species seen during census period: American Bittern, Canada Goose and Herring Gull.

2. BREMER COUNTY (Wapsipinicon River Valley, Sweet Marsh, Plum Creek, Big Woods, all points within a 15 mile diameter, center Sec. 2 Maxfield Twp.). Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -6 to -20 F.; wind 2 m.p.h. from west. Cold, low pressure, storm brewing, snow, approximately 1/2 inch, streams frozen. Observers (10) in one party; Dr. Myrle M. Burk (compiler), Richard Evans, Harriet Fairbanks, Ruth Halliday, Russell Hays, Charles and Thomas Moon, John, Lois and Nick Osness.

3. BURLINGTON (15 mile diameter circle 1/2 mile north of junction of highways 34 and 61). Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 0 to 1 F; wind 8 to 12 m.p.h. from NW. Overcast to clear afternoon; 1 inch snow cover; Mississippi 90% frozen. Observers (16) in 8 parties; Dr. and Mrs. Charles Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Fuller, Kenneth Homan, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Jackson, Ann Klohr, Frederic Leopold, John Lowther, Mrs. Anna Mae Lowther, Peter Lowther, (compiler) Jack McLane, Harrison Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Niemann, and Mrs. Frank Schramm.

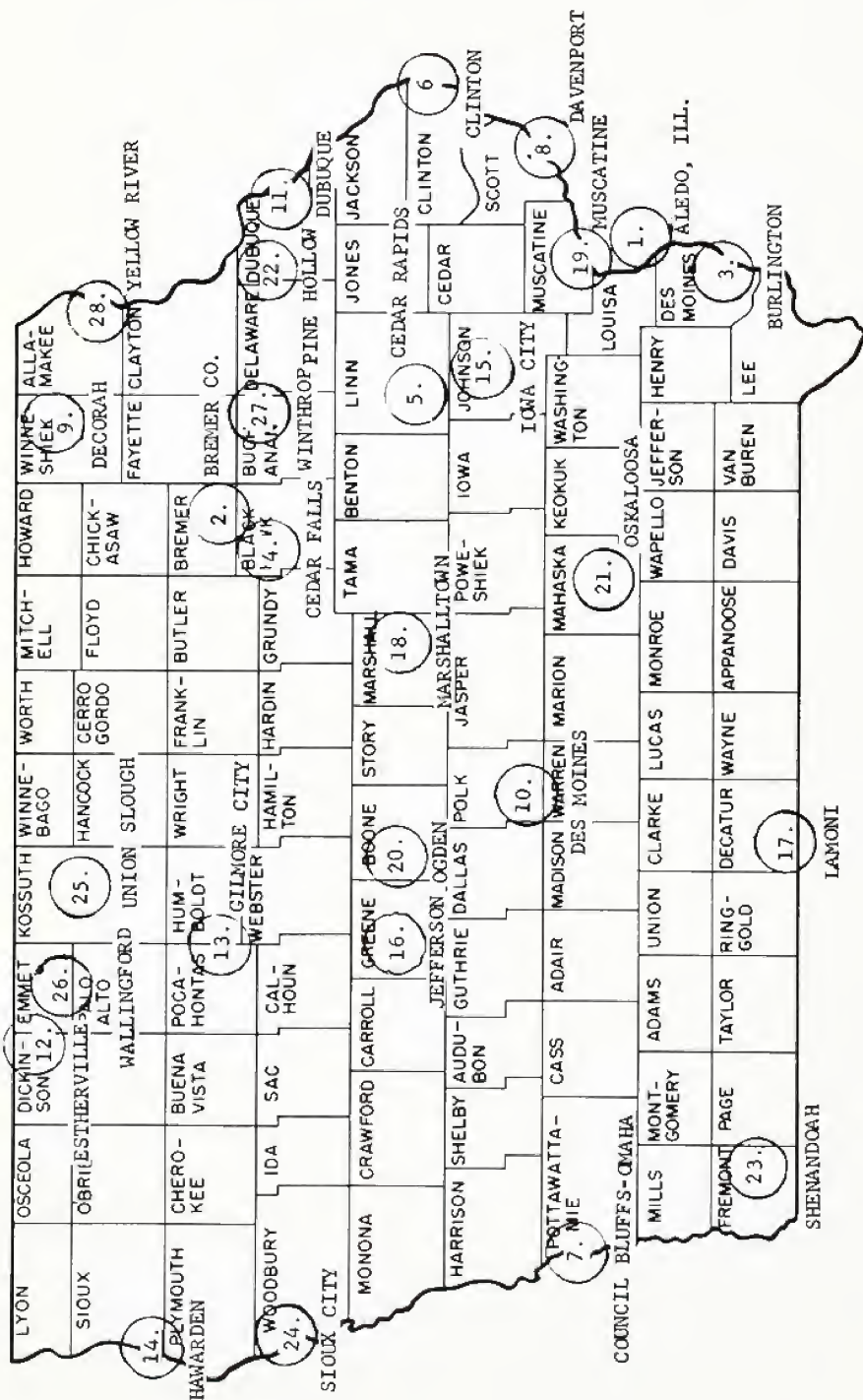
Details of unusual observations: The Oregon Juncos were at a feeder and were very distinctly marked--not as some brown Slate-colored Juncos (J. J. and Mrs. P. N.). Other species seen during census period: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Killdeer, Great Horned Owl, Brown Thrasher and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

4. CEDAR RALLS (Black Hawk Park, Falls Access, Beaver Creek, Snag Creek, Wyth Park, Cedar Heights, and other Cedar River areas; Goose Lake; Washington Park College Gardens; river bottom forest 45%, upland forest 15% savannas 10%, cities 5%, fields and prairies 20%, marsh 5%). Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 15 to 21 F; wind 2 to 10 m.p.h. from N.W. Cloudy, ground half covered with snow, ponds frozen, streams mostly frozen. Observers (11) in 4 parties; Marian Bireline, Evelyn Ehlers, Larry Fobian, Janet and Martin L. Grant, Annette Haffner, Victoria Madsen (compiler), Nick Osness, Florence Velie, Sina Watson, Sigrid Wood.

Other species seen during census period: Pileated Woodpecker.

5. CEDAR RAPIDS (Circle with fifteen mile diameter, centering on Federal Building). Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 6 - 11F; wind 10 - 15 m.p.h. from S. Cloudy, two inches of snow covering ground. Observers (14) in 5 parties; James Clifton, Eldon Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Layton, John Layton,

5



[illegible]

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
Placed Woodpecker	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41	15	24	7	10	25	16	61	30	16	3	2	2	18	9	15	17	35	3	2	6	1	7	9	1	2	4	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	16	8	2	---	5	13	13	33	2	4	3	---	---	6	---	9	9	24	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hairy Woodpecker	8	5	6	13	2	8	6	37	15	4	2	2	3	3	1	1	7	12	2	2	1	4	19	1	1	2	1	---
Downy Woodpecker	30	17	41	37	22	65	42	118	23	37	17	5	4	18	27	8	32	58	44	8	15	4	14	20	8	8	4	---
Horned Lark	195	1	258	---	1	3	56	24	---	6	5	2	20	5	7	1	3	58	4	23	---	17	121	41	35	2	---	---
Blue Jay	78	20	31	24	107	191	58	363	118	229	17	2	5	6	33	14	54	31	90	---	15	23	13	17	42	5	37	14
Crow	521	56	87	170	107	191	58	363	118	229	17	2	5	6	33	14	54	31	90	---	15	23	13	17	42	5	37	14
Black-capped Chickadee	34	49	57	217	66	73	115	238	104	107	11	57	3	60	81	8	58	108	78	14	6	6	46	64	41	10	20	35
Tufted Titmouse	13	4	16	34	25	41	82	30	23	10	---	---	---	17	2	2	10	34	4	1	21	---	4	4	2	2	15	---
White-breasted Nuthatch	13	40	12	32	39	45	53	82	57	36	17	7	2	14	15	16	14	32	51	---	3	19	10	16	2	3	8	---
Red-breasted Nuthatch	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Brown Creeper	2	1	2	9	5	4	11	23	2	1	2	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Winter Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Carolina Wren	---	---	3	---	---	1	5	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mockingbird	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cardinal	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Brown Thrasher	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Robin	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Golden-crowned Kinglet	9	10	---	---	1	1	3	5	1	2	---	---	---	3	3	3	5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cedar Waxwing	3	---	9	---	13	4	23	47	1	7	---	---	---	6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Shrike	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Leggished Shrike	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Starling (sp.)	522	297	200	343	14	723	740	7460	189	616	1038	28	75	35	295	50	449	300	934	17	56	70	141	500	73	250	33	---
House Sparrow	1615	292	656	597	14	1794	5500	3390	1015	1020	613	215	125	90	373	200	538	300	2197	14	76	41	750	1500	132	155	200	281
Eastern Meadowlark	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Western Meadowlark	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Meadowlark (sp.)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Yellow-headed Blackbird	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Red-winged Blackbird	23	---	---	---	---	25	2	3154	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rusty Blackbird	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Brewer's Blackbird	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Common Grackle	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Brown-headed Cowbird	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cardinal	371	33	262	44	84	220	126	245	143	68	37	---	---	---	92	25	24	48	258	3	67	6	50	27	---	---	---	---
Purple Finch	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Common Redpoll	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Pine Siskin	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
American Goldfinch	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rufous-sided Towhee	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Vesper Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
State-colored Junco	1189	322	423	357	548	1139	425	1390	225	251	55	24	8	60	203	150	297	200	990	78	98	125	559	137	30	13	150	110
Oregon Junco	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Tree Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Field Sparrow	1460	950	230	322	82	1783	725	1623	394	300	138	25	37	1200	373	1500	745	1110	1047	116	135	178	1248	390	186	21	500	74
Harris Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White-crowned Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White-throated Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fox Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lincoln's Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Song Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lapland Longspur	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Snow Bunting	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
No. of Species	46	27	41	27	52	59	54	77	33	44	32	25	20	25	43	29	31	51	29	23	21	40	33	15	14	23	22	---
No. of Observers	8	10	46	11	14	11	54	77	33	44	32	25	20	25	43	29	31	51	29	23	21	40	33	15	14	23	22	---
No. of Parties	4	1	8	4	5	3	4	13	4	5	2	2	3	1	3	2	4	9	1	2	3	7	13	3	2	3	4	---

See data under station in body of article.

Total Iowa list - 107 species.

1+ = no estimate made.

Mrs. Robert Liljedahl (compiler), Mrs. Steven Pattee, Victor Postil, Miss Lillian Serbousek, Dr. Robert Vane, Robert Stewart Vane, Miss Myra Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich Zobac.

Other species seen during census period: Marsh Hawk and Common Grackle.

6. CLINTON (15 mile diameter circle, center Elk River Junction, same as previous years). Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. 25 - 28 F; wind 5 - 8 m.p.h. from W. Overcast, snow flurries in P.M., 1/2" snow on ground, river 90% ice covered. Observers (11) in 3 parties; Larry Dau, Fred and Maurice Leshner, T. James Lewis, Mike Lonacker, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonacker, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen, Jr. (compiler), Paul Van Nieuwenhayse, Norman Ward, Jr.

Other species seen during census period: Canada Goose, Snowy Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-throated Sparrow and Lapland Longspur.

7. COUNCIL BLUFFS-OMAHA (15 mile diameter circle center Offutt A.F.B. Lake, including Lake Manawa South to U.S. Highway #34). Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 10 - 13 F; wind 8 m.p.h. from N. Overcast, snow in P.M., 5 inch snow cover, Lake Manawa frozen, Missouri River partially frozen. Observers (14) in 4 parties; Grover Bramel, C. E. Heaney, Jr., Linda L. Larsen, William Latka, William G. Latka, Glenn H. LeDioyt (compiler), Catherine Nelson, Rosemary Nelson, Marie Pluta, Margaret Reindlander, Jean Schneider, Rachel Stanford, Carl Swanson, Gertrude Wood.

8. DAVENPORT (15 mile diameter circle, center Memorial Bridge, same as previous years). Dec. 23; 4:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 8 - 27 F; wind 0 - 10 m.p.h. from S.W. Clear to partly cloudy, 1/2" snow on ground, river 60% ice covered. Observers (41) in 13 parties; Mrs. Fred Adams, Steve Aupperle, Connie Blevins, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Blevins, Harry Carl, Allen Carlson, Larry, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dau, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Dale Dickinson, Leo J. Doering, Elton Fawks, Tom Frank, Mrs. Frank Gordon, Mark Henderson, John, Mike and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonacker, Major Ralph MacIntosh, Mrs. Frank Marquis, Mrs. Moriarity, Joe Petersen, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen, Jr. (compiler), Mrs. Pete Petersen, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Don Price, Frank Rodl, Ed Romans, Joan Sprouse, Kent Stewart, Urban Stratman, Joe Tracy, Ethel Volk, Norman Ward, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Eared Grebe--seen at 100' with 40X scope, good light, all field marks noted (MH, MLP, PP). Black-legged Kittiwake --seen in good light, all field marks noted, see longer note in general notes section (AC, LD, RD, EF, FR). Other species seen during census period: Canvasback, Loggerhead Shrike and Evening Grosbeak.

9. DECORAH (Center NE corner of Sec. 24, T99N, R8W). Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 10 - 20 F; wind 0 - 5 m.p.h. from NW. Cludy, snow flurries p.m., trace of snow cover, waters 50% frozen. Observers (19) in 4 parties; Florence Albright, Laura Amdahl, Vernon Bahr, Gus Heuser, Cletus Houdek, Oivind Hovde, Terry Knoke, George Knudson, Roger Knutson, Darwin Koenig, Pat Koenig, Dale Nimrod, Wayne Paulson, Donald Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rohm, Russel Rulon, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Schultz.



Black-legged Kittiwake
Photos by W. M. Lonnecker

10. DES MOINES (Denman Woods, Brenton's Slough, Camp Dodge, Pinehill Cemetery, Pioneer Park, Ewing Park, Riverview, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Greenwood and Ashworth Parks, Walnut Woods, Imp. Reservoir, Flint Access, Crocker and Margo, Frankel Woods). Dec. 23; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. 9 - 35 F; wind 7 - 10 m.p.h. from S-SW. Clear, no snow cover, Reservoir and Raccoon River, partly open. Observers (14) in 5 parties; Ron Barns, Albert Berkowitz, Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, W. A. Boller, Woodward Brown (compiler), Oliver Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haskell, Joe Kennedy, Dr. Fran Keith, Jeff Kern, Mrs. Russell Nicholson, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley.

Details of unusual observations: Killdeer on sandbar near open water in Raccoon River. Other species seen during census period: Harlan's Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Brown Thrasher.

11. DUBUQUE (Center of 15 mile diameter circle at Center Grove Cemetery, including Linwood Cemetery, John Deere and river). Dec. 23; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 1 - 17 F; wind 0 to 5 m.p.h. from S. Clear to full overcast, light snow on ground, river open in patches. Observers (8) in 2 parties; Basil Beal, Frieda Crossley, George Crossley (compiler), Howard E. Higley, Robert and Rory Hulscher, Delbert Ludwig, Phyllis Shultz.

Details of unusual observations: Three young Glaucous Gulls observed at 50 feet when sitting on ice, (FC, GC, HRH, PS). No black or gray on 2nd year immature, brownish-mottled 1st year immatures. Other species seen during census period: Rough-legged Hawk, Cedar Waxwing and Oregon Junco.

12. ESTHERVILLE (Includes Spirit Lake, Little Spirit Lake, Lower Gar Lake, Upper Gar Lake, Minnewashta Lake, West Okoboji Lake, Jimmerson Slough, Kettleson Slough, Marble Lake, Christopherson's Slough. Open fields and pastures 40%, deciduous woods 20%, Evergreens 5%, Swamps and marshes 15%, Farmyards, orchards and gardens 10%, Towns 10%). Dec. 22; 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. 0-11 F; wind N to NW, 3-5 m.p.h. Cloudy, ground bare, lakes partially frozen. 2 observers in 1 party; Mrs. B. A. LaDoux, Mrs. J. B. Osher.

Other species seen during census period: Belted Kingfisher, Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cardinal.

13. GLIMORE CITY (7 miles south to Lizard Lake, 7 miles north Bradgate-West Fork of Des Moines River including Day's Lake area. Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 10-16 F; wind 2-5 m.p.h. from NW. Ground frozen, barely covered with snow, lake and river frozen except for one small patch of open water. Observers (3) in 2 parties; Myrtle Sabo, Margaret Van Alstine, Sewell Van Alstine.

Other species seen during census period: Sparrow Hawk, Shrike, American Goldfinch and Fox Sparrow.

14. HAWARDEN (Oak Grove Park, Rock-Sioux Access, rural areas, and river bottom on both South Dakota & Iowa sides of Big Sioux). Dec. 29; 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 19-30 F; wind 5-15 m.p.h. from S-SW. Chilly, variable cloudiness, light snow in protected areas, river 95% frozen, ponds and small streams 100% frozen. One observer, Ron Mullenburg.

Details of unusual observations: Bald Eagle seen in sunlight, overhead for about 5 minutes. Kingfisher called loudly and stayed in vicinity of a spring.

15. IOWA CITY (15 mile diameter circle (center near N. Liberty) including Iowa City, Lake Macbride, Coralville Reservoir, and west). Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 24-28 F; wind calm. Overcast, one in. snow, lakes and ponds frozen, river partly open. Observers (9) in 3 parties; John Campbell, Seddie Cogswell, J. A. Clifton, Sr., Bob, F. W. (compiler), Dr. T. H. Kent, Richard Nolf, Ronald Raymon, Dr. Dan Stone.

16. JEFFERSON (15 mile circle centered on Hiway 30 four miles west of Jefferson; includes Goose Lake and Dunbar Slough). Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 5-26 F; wind 0-3 m.p.h. from East. Partly cloudy, no snow on ground, Lakes 100% frozen, river 95 % frozen. Observers (2) in one party; Dave Bucklin, John Faaborg (compiler).

Details of unusual observations: Yellow-headed Blackbird seen in flock of 200 Red-wings, an adult male with all marks observed. Other species seen during census period: Mourning Dove.

17. LAMONI (Parts of a 7 1/2 mile radius centered 2 1/2 miles east of Lamoni. Includes county roads, farm land, farm lots, one feeding station and Nine Eagles State Park). Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 5-25 F; wind

calm. Sky clear a.m., cloudy p.m., ground bare and dry, streams partly open, ponds frozen. Observers (10) in 4 parties; Mrs. Dean Ballantyne, Mrs. Paul Elswick, Bill Gillaspey, David Gillaspey, Diana Gillaspey, Jim Gillaspey, J. Donald Gillaspey, (compiler), Dr. D. T. Goode, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver.

Other species seen during census period: Short-eared Owl and Horned Lark.

18. MARSHALLTOWN (7 1/2 mile (aprox.) in all directions). Dec. 30; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 15-22 F; wind 5 m.ph. from S.W. Overcast then light snow at 1 to 1:30 then clear until heavy snow at 3:30 to 4:00. No snow on ground until 1:00. Very little until 4:00. Observers (14) in 4 parties: Wayne Britten, Mrs. Perry Drury, Mrs. LeRoy Grimes, John King, Miss Ruth Knights, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Maish, Mrs. John Mowry, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart (compilers), Miss Irene Weir, Miss Ruth Zorn.

Other species seen during census period: Robin.

19. MUSCATINE (15 mile diameter circle, center Lock and Dam 16, same as previous years). Dec. 24; 6:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. 13-34 F; wind 0-12 m.p.h. from S.W. Clear to overcast, light rain in late P.M., 1/2" snow on ground, river 60% ice covered. Observers (9) in 3 parties: Elton Fawks, John, Mike and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonnecker, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen, Jr. (compiler), Philip Vaughan, Norman Ward, Jr.

Details of unusual observations: Harlans Hawk--seen in good light, all field marks noted (EF). Golden Eagle, a subadult, all field marks noted, careful study (EF).

20. OGDEN (Eight mile radius around my home including roadsides, fence-rows, pastures, fields, woods, and creek bottoms). Jan. 2; 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tem. 9 to 12 F. Creek fozen solid, ground partially covered with snow. One observer: Jim Keenan.

21. OSKALOOSA (15 mile diameter circle centered on the Mahaska County Courthouse, in Oskaloosa, including Lake Keomah State Park and South Skunk River Bottom). Jan. 1; 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 0-13 F; wind 10-20 m.p.h. Cloudy, 2" of snow on ground, water level in ponds and bayous very low and frozen over solid. Observers (2) in one party: Keith and Irene Layton.

Details of unusual observations: Saw an albino Red-tailed Hawk in the east edge of Nelson Pioneer Farm timber. It was pure white except for a spot of black on each wingtip, rufous on top of the tail. This hawk was first observed by us near our home on July 25th, 1966, and a number of times thereafter, at irregular intervals.

22. PINE HOLLOW FOREST (15 mile diamter circle from north of Farley to and including Pine Hollow Forest, Dubuque County). Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Temp. -8 - -7 F; wind 15 m.p.h. from S. Cloudy, one inch of snow on ground, all water frozen. Observers (3) in one party: George Crossley (compiler), Howard Highley, Jr. and Howard R. Highley.

Details of unusual observations: Watched Longspurs from car at 50 feet for 5-10 minutes.

23. SHENANDOAH (15 mile diameter circle, centering at Farragut, and including the Riverton area). Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 13-31 F; wind NW 3-5 m.p.h. Overcast; four inches of two-day old snow. Observers (7) in 4 parties: Mrs. Robert Bordner, Mrs. Francis M. Braley (compiler), Don

Burrichter, Mrs. Wallace DeLong, Mrs. Edwin Getscher, Mrs. Donald Walters and Mrs. Emmett Zollars.

Other species seen during census period: Black Duck, Marsh Hawk, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Screech Owls and Short-eared Owl.

24. SIOUX CITY (15 mile diameter of Sioux City Auditorium). Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 16-18 F; wind 17 m.p.h. from NW. Partly cloudy with light snow, ground clear, Missouri River-floating ice. Observers (13) in 7 parties: Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Alden Erskine, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Graham, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Irvin Knudson, Mr. and Mrs. George Marsh, Robert L. Nickolson (compiler), Dr. Morgan C. Webb.

Details of unusual observations: Carolina Wren observed by Mrs. Irving Knudson, 2526 South Mulberry, Sioux City. Bird has been coming to feeder for past several months. Other species seen during census period: Mallard (about 5,000 on Dec. 23), and Robin.

25. UNION SLOUGH NATL. WILDLIFE REFUGE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2,077 acre waterfowl refuge 5 1/2 miles west of Titonka, Iowa; marsh and water 50% upland grasslands and mixed elm, cottonwood, willow, oak tickets 40%; cropland 10%). Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -5 - 22F; wind 0-5 m.p.h. from NW. Partly cloudy sky. 1/4" of snow on ground--refuge pools 100% frozen. Observers (2) in one party: William Boyken and Paul Ferguson (compiler).

Other species seen during census period: Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, American Widgeon, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl and Blue Jay.

26. WALLINGFORD (Center of Area, five miles East from Wallingford, around High Lake, 7 1/2 mile diameter circle). Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 18-25 F; wind 12-15 m.p.h. from SW-NW. Cloudy and raw wind, barely snow covered, no open water. Observers (2) in one party: Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Wolden.

Details of unusual observation: There were possibly 10 or 12 Redpolls but they were constantly on the move from tree to tree and on this dark cloudy day were difficult to identify, until one lit about 15 ft. up in a tree close by. Using an 8 power glass it was then easily identified. When the flock left, this one joined them so evidently they were all Redpolls. Other species seen during census period: Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-shafted Flicker and Red-winged Blackbird.

27. WINTHROP (Roadsides in northern Buchanan County, and through Backbone State Park in Delaware County). Dec. 25; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 12 F; wind strong from SW & W. Clear most of the day; light snow on the ground in sheltered places; brisk, cold wind. Observers (4) in one party: Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce (compiler) and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pierce. (My 48th annual Christmas bird count; haven't missed a year since 1920 -- F. J. P.)

Details of unusual observations: The Robin had been wintering in Winthrop and was seen through most of December. The scarcity of Crows was unusual.

28. YELLOW RIVER FOREST (Center NW corner Sec. 8, T96N, R3W, 15 mi. diameter circle). Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -15 - -5 F; wind 0-7 m.p.h. from NW. Clear, trace of snow cover, most waters frozen. Observers (3) in one party: Darwin Koenig (compiler), Mrs. Merlin Koenig, Donald Peterson.

BANDING REPORT



Iowa Bird Banding Summary for 1967

DEAN M. ROOSA
GOLDFIELD, IOWA

Another exciting and productive year has ended for Iowa banders. This year, we are joined by Mrs. Donald Walters, now licensed, who was a sub-permittee of Mrs. DeLong last year and John Faaborg. Sadness and happiness both visited our banders this past year. Our beloved secretary, Dr. Myrle Burk, lost both her mother and brother. Our sympathy, Myrle. Kenneth Formanek found banding much better in Eastern Iowa than in Southwest Ia. He netted and banded an adult female and recorded her as his wife. We're glad he had the correct size band in his kit. Congratulations, folks! Margaret Jones, bravely carrying the banding program in Arkansas, recorded an outstanding banding event when she netted a banded White-throated Sparrow. Close checking proved it to be a bird that Myrle had banded in Estherville, Iowa, in 1960. That surely is a banding "first" (see general note - ed).

The banding leaders were again Petersen with 5595, Diggs second with 2523 and the Ayres third with 2197. A surprising number (1251) of Tree Sparrows were banded, 1017 of them by the Diggs. An outstanding job was done again on warblers by Pete. New birds to be found on the bander's list included a Pigeon Hawk, banded by the Diggs, and Barn Owls by Pete. It is interesting to note the decline in the number of Purple Finch and Swallows banded, and the complete absence of several species as compared to the previous lists. The following represents a lot of time and effort, but also a lot of enjoyment.

Following is a list of banders and the number of species and individuals they banded in Iowa in 1967:

Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa	95	2197
Gladys Black, Pleasantville	23	182
Dr. Myrle Burk, Waterloo	20	53
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Shenandoah	59	1057
Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg	82	2523
John Faaborg, Jefferson	92	1406
Paul Ferguson, Union Slough, Titonka	7	1074
Kenneth Formanek, Bellevue State Park	14	37
Iowa Conservation Commission, Des Moines	18	9113
Dr. Martin Grant, Cedar Falls	16	61
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton, Oskaloosa	79	1603
Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport	126	5595
Mr. and Mrs. Home Rinehart, Marshalltown	76	735
Dean M. Roosa, Goldfield, Iowa	16	72
Mrs. Donald Walters, Essex	32	113
Total Iowa list	174	25,821

BIRDS BANDED IN IOWA IN 1967

Pied-billed Grebe	1	Ruby-throated Hummingbird ...	3
Double-crested Cormorant ...	1	Belted Kingfisher	2
Green Heron	1	Yellow-shafted Flicker	78
Canada Goose	14	Red-bellied Woodpecker	24
Mallard	1974	Red-headed Woodpecker	26
Black Duck	6	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21
Gadwall	3	Hairy Woodpecker	17
Pintail	21	Downy Woodpecker	127
Green-winged Teal	20	Eastern Kingbird	14
Blue-winged Teal	4372	Crested Flycatcher	22
American Widgeon	4	Eastern Phoebe	67
Shoveler	7	Say's Phoebe	7
Wood Duck	796	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	105
Redhead	25	Acadian Flycatcher	37
Ring-necked Duck	2	Traill's Flycatcher	55
Lesser Scaup	5	Least Flycatcher	85
Ruddy Duck	6	Epidonax Flycatcher	103
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14	Eastern Wood Pewee	42
Cooper's Hawk	1	Olive-sided Flycatcher	5
Red-tailed Hawk	27	Horned Lark	1
Broad-winged Hawk	2	Bank Swallow	156
Swainson's Hawk	2	Rough-winged Swallow	4
Pigeon Hawk	1	Barn Swallow	130
Sparrow Hawk	1	Cliff Swallow	157
Bobwhite	14	Purple Martin	26
Virginia Rail	2	Blue Jay	257
Sora	9	Common Crow	10
American Coot	3	Black-capped Chickadee	131
Killdeer	1	Tufted Titmouse	35
American Woodcock	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	43
Spotted Sandpiper	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Brown Creeper	119
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	House Wren	403
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	Winter Wren	54
Least Sandpiper	21	Carolina Wren	2
Short-billed Dowitcher	2	Long-billed Marsh Wren	20
Semipalmated Sandpiper	17	Short-billed Marsh Wren	1
Western Sandpiper	2	Mockingbird	1
Mourning Dove	3047	Catbird	481
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6	Brown Thrasher	200
Black-billed Cuckoo	7	Robin	614
Barn Owl	3	Wood Thrush	10
Screech Owl	16	Hermit Thrush	83
Great Horned Owl	16	Swainson's Thrush	372
Barred Owl	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	81
Saw-whet Owl	11	Veery	43
Whip-poor-will	3	Eastern Bluebird	277
Common Nighthawk	6	Golden-crowned Kinglet	369
Chimney Swift	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	853

Cedar Waxwing	130	House Sparrow	6
Loggerhead Shrike	18	Eastern Meadowlark	21
Starling	28	Western Meadowlark	3
White-eyed Vireo	2	Yellow-headed Blackbird	70
Bell's Vireo	9	Red-winged Blackbird	144
Yellow-throated Vireo	5	Orchard Oriole	5
Solitary Vireo	55	Baltimore Oriole	61
Red-eyed Vireo	255	Rusty Blackbird	2
Philadelphia Vireo	42	Common Grackle	279
Warbling Vireo	20	Brown-headed Cowbird	40
Black-and-white Warbler	73	Scarlet Tanager	13
Golden-winged Warbler	11	Cardinal	179
Blue-winged Warbler	8	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	209
Tennessee Warbler	334	Indigo Bunting	109
Orange-crowned Warbler	158	Dickcissel	8
Nashville Warbler	402	Purple Finch	135
Parula Warbler	6	Pine Siskin	1
Yellow Warbler	37	American Goldfinch	823
Magnolia Warbler	126	Red Crossbill	1
Cape May Warbler	8	Rufous-sided Towhee	14
Black-throated Blue Warbler ...	3	Savannah Sparrow	20
Myrtle Warbler	293	Grasshopper Sparrow	2
Black-throated Green Warbler ..	29	LeConte's Sparrow	2
Blackburnian Warbler	14	Vesper Sparrow	5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	74	Lark Sparrow	3
Bay-breasted Warbler	57	Slate-colored Junco	1332
Black-poll Warbler	37	Oregon Junco	1
Pine Warbler	2	Tree Sparrow	1251
Palm Warbler	6	Chipping Sparrow	26
Ovenbird	138	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Northern Waterthrush	81	Field Sparrow	39
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	Harris' Sparrow	283
Connecticut Warbler	6	White-crowned Sparrow	46
Mourning Warbler	38	White-throated Sparrow	737
Yellowthroat	192	Fox Sparrow	139
Wilson's Warbler	90	Lincoln's Sparrow	210
Canada Warbler	39	Swamp Sparrow	183
American Redstart	102	Song Sparrow	204
		Total	25,821

Convention

Plans are underway for the 1968 convention to be held at Ottumwa May 10-12. Membership response in the way of papers has been nil and anyone who can contribute to the program is urged to write to Mrs. Charles Ayres, 922 Green Street, Ottumwa, 52501. A convention chairman has far too large a load with convention preparations to solicit papers. If past Ottumwa meetings are any guide we can look forward to a fine meeting and excellent birding. Lets all plan to attend and pitch in on the program. ed.

FIELD REPORTS



There is almost complete agreement that the bird population this winter is extremely low with a minimum, or complete lack, of most of the northern species. Also, there are fewer than usual of the summer residents remaining. Last year was unusually dry in much of the state, and this may have caused a scarcity of food for wintering birds. These are some of the comments: "Poorest report I have ever completed" (Mrs. Hanna), "Populations much below average except Juncos and Tree Sparrows which are normal" (Fred Kent), "Winter the poorest I can ever remember" (Russell Hays), "Most birds unusually scarce since 1 December" (Milford Keeler). The following should be considered in addition to the Christmas census reports.

GEESE, DUCKS. There were not as many geese as usual, according to Bill Felton (DH), but a flock of 3,000, composed of 50 Blues and the rest Snows, was flying south on 21 January (EG). Duck population peaked on 2 November at 31,000 of which 20,800 were Mallards. The last were seen on 24 December (PF). Mallards have been few along the Missouri but may be scattered due to the river being open (DH). A Canvasback was wintering at Lock 14 (PP), while 3 were at the Des Moines Res. Golden-eyes numbered only about 25 instead of the usual 200 (DH). There were several reports of Surf Scoters at Davenport; 1 sighting being of 4 (PP).

HAWKS. All hawks have been scarce (EB). A Goshawk was reported to have been at the feeder of Mrs. Johnson in Cedar Falls, and a Cooper's was seen by Dr. Burk on 2 December (RH). A Sharp-shinned was seen on 10 January (HM). Red-tailed: a good count with one carrying nesting material on 24 January (EB); scarce (JK). Red-shouldered: 1 on 22 November (RH); 1 on 6 January for only his second record (DG); and 1 on the Des Moines census (HP). A pair in the Russell area are evidently permanent residents (HM). Rough-legged: scarce (DG), but, more common and mostly the dark phase (JK). Golden Eagle: 1 found by Lewis Blevins on 18 November had been recently shot; 1 was included in the Muscatine census, and 1 was seen 14 January on Credit Island (PP). Bald Eagles: 6 were seen at Marquette by Glenn Bloomfield on 20 January (RH); 1 at Coralville seen by Dick Thoren on 25 November, and 1 in the same area on 22 December (FK); 1 at Union Slough on 12-13 December (PF). Those at Burlington were late in arriving (PL), and 1 at Brown Slough was late for that area (HM). Marsh Hawks: scarce with only 2 observations (DG); 4 on 21 January (FK); and 1 on 10 January was thought unusual for that date (HM).

BOBWHITES, PHEASANTS, CHUKARS. Bobwhites were thought few (EB), but abundant (DG). Pheasants are down (EB), and abundant (JK), but hunting poor (DH). The Union Slough population was estimated at 1200 (PF). Chukars were seen in two places, one sighting being of a flock of 12 of which some were young. Those are in the neighborhood of a former game farm (GB).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS. Two late Golden Plover were seen on 13-14 November (DG). Killdeer were found on several censuses and were present the first two weeks in December (FK). A "great number" of Snipe were at Big Marsh in November according to Glenn Bloomfield (RH) with others wintering at Davenport (PP) and 2 seen by Nick Osness on 22 November (RH). An estimated 800 Herring and 1200 Ring-billed Gulls were seen on 23 December but moved out on the 31st (PP). A Black-legged Kittiwake observation is described in a separate note.

DOVES, OWLS. Mourning Doves are few (GB), and not as many as usual at Des Moines with a flock of 50 at Waterloo on 21 January (RH). Snowy Owls are reported from three areas: 10 December north of Davenport by Fred Lorenzen (PP); 1 in mid-December by Jack McLane (PL); and 3 within 8 miles of Iowa City by reliable observers (FK). Long-eared: 2 at the Refuge (PF); 2 near Ames found by John Faaborg and Nick Osness (RH); and 12 at Coralville on 28 January (FK). Short-eared are scarce with only three observations where they are usually seen daily (DG); 3 were seen on 14 January (HM); only a few records (JK); and only 1 on 19 December (FK). Saw-whet: 4 near Ames in November by Faaborg and Osness (RH); 1 on 24 December and 28 January (FK); and 1 near Readlyn on 21 November by Nick Osness (RH).

WOODPECKERS, HORNED LARKS. The Yellow-shafted Flicker is the most abundant woodpecker (JK); seen occasionally (DH); not many in Des Moines, and only 1 wintering (GB). A Red-shafted Flicker on the Ames campus on 25 November was seen by a cousin of Annette Haffner (RH). A Pileated remains on Credit Island (PP), and one was a "first" for the Cedar Rapids census. Redheaded are "spotty" (PP), with only a few around Des Moines. Ralph Silvers reports two Sapsucker observations (DG), and several are reported at Des Moines feeders. The Hairy has been scarce (DG), and it and the Downy have been missing at some feeders (DH). Except for two large flocks seen on 4 November (RH), Horned Larks seemed scarce: only one place reporting (GB); fair number when snow on the ground (PP); very scarce or absent in latter December, small numbers in January where usually several hundred to the mile are seen (DG); very few, only small flocks, and only three reports (DH); and scarce in Polk Co.; observed regularly at Union Slough but no numbers given.

BLUE JAYS, CROWS, CHICKADEES. Blue Jays, which usually winter at Wallingford, all left late in September (CW), and the winter population around Des Moines seems low. Crows are seldom seen (DH). Chickadees: none all winter with similar reports from other feeders (MK); never more than one at a time (GB); fewer (DH).

NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS, WRENS. White-breasted Nuthatches: fewer (GH), and at an all-time low (GB). Brown Creepers: none (DH), and generally scarce. No reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches or Winter Wrens. Carolina Wrens may be making a come-back: 1 all winter (EG); wintered again (PL); back at Credit Island (PP); and seen on 25 November and 30 December (DH).

MIMICS, THRUSHES. A Mockingbird wintered as usual (PL). Brown Thrashers are reported wintering (HP, PP, RH). Robins are not staying in numbers as there are only scattered reports with only 1 or 2 being seen. There are "a few" Bluebirds according to Bill Felton (DH).

KINGLETS, SHRIKES, STARLINGS. To judge from reports, Golden-crowned Kinglets are not numerous, and but one Ruby-crowned was mentioned (DH). Northern Shrikes were seen: 19 November, (GB); 12 December by Glenn Bloomfield (RH); 19 December (FK); 21 January (RH). No mention made of wintering Loggerheads. Starlings are "everpresent" but seem fewer (DH).

ICTERIDS. Meadowlarks: scarce (DG, DH, GB, WHB); a fair number when snow covered the ground (PP). Rusty Blackbirds: 6 on 1 January, Mrs. Hewitt (RH); 20 on 29 January (HM); in Des Moines, 19 November, Mary E. Warters, 14 January, A. Berkowitz. Grackles: a few until the first week in December (MK); 30-50 wintering (PL); 1 occasionally (GB). Cowbird: 1 on 21 December was a winter "first" (MK).

FINCHES. Cardinals: fewer than any recent year (DG); same, or up a little (DH); more than usual (EG); many more than usual (PL). Evening Grosbeak was reported but once, Ruth Holliday saw 1 in Waterloo on 14 January (RH). Purple Finches have been generally scarce: Mrs. Niemann had a few at feeders (PL); 1 recrod of 5 on 24 December (FK); a small flock early and only stragglers since (HP). Goldfinches: more than usual (EB); spotty (PP); few (DH); many at some Des Moines feeders and none at many other locations. Juncos and Tree Sparrows have only one good report; seem abundant (JK). The others are negative: few at feeders (GB); few on the only field trip (PU); fewer than usual (PP); much smaller numbers (DG); very few (RH); and way down (DH). A few Harris' are around: 3 banded in January (GB); seen occasionally (JK); one report of 6-8 (DH). Lapland Longspurs: only few seen - difficult to see unless snow brings them to roads. Flocks of several hundred in the first half of November, none since (DG). Snow Buntings: from 6-30, often 13 seen from the first of November through January at Coralville Res. (FK); a flock observed near Des Moines on Thanksgiving and for a week subsequently with numbers from 30-50.

Contributors. Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Eldon Bryant, Akron; Paul Ferguson, Union Slough; Mrs. Edwin A. Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Milford Keeler, Mason City; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Fred W. Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Peter Lowther, Burlington; Howard McKinley, Russell; Mrs. Harold Peasley, Des Moines; Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport; C. F. Wolden, Wallingford. **WOODWARD H. BROWN**, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50312.

GENERAL NOTES



IT'S A SMALL WORLD--What do you suppose the chances are of a bander recapturing a migrant bird after seven years at a locality over seven hundred miles from the banding location? Probably less than one in a million, since most birds don't live nearly that long in the first place. An adult male White-throated Sparrow banded by Myrle Jones at Estherville, Iowa, on October 6, 1960, was

recaptured by myself on April 9, 1967, here near Dover, Arkansas. Since I didn't check back that far in my notebooks I was not aware of the nature of the record until notified by the banding office late in 1967. It will certainly rank as the banding surprise of a lifetime.--MRS. MARGARET JONES, Dover, Arkansas.

RED CROSSBILLS IN SHENANDOAH--Mrs. Francis Braley called me on April 28, 1967, and reported seeing two Red Crossbills in a city park on the north edge of Shenandoah. The next day I went to this park and found eight feeding on the seeds of an elm tree. Four were brick red males and the other four were in the brown plumage. One male flew to the ground and allowed me to approach very closely. I could easily see its crossed bill. This was my first observation of Red Crossbills in Iowa.

The summer of 1963 there was a tremendous crop of ponderosa pine cones in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. That year crossbills were very numerous in the park, for nine-tenths of their food is made up of these cones. I have observed in the summers that I have spent in the park that some birds crave salt. Crossbills are one of them. Others are the Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, and Cassin's Finches. There used to be a ranch in the park called Stead's Ranch, and where the horses had been fed salt, the gravel contained salt crystals. Crossbills would fly from a certain pole, also from wires, directly to the ground to eat this salt. A net placed between this pole and the ground netted many crossbills to band. Their bills would be covered with mud and gravel, for they had been prodding in the dirt for the salt crystals.

I learned to recognize their flight song as "kip, kip, kip." It was this song that helped me locate them here in Shenandoah in the days that followed. Several bird watchers in Shenandoah were able to add the Red Crossbill to their life list. Many times they would fly from the elm tree to the pine trees in the cemetery near the park. The last date we observed them was May 4. It would be interesting to know if they had wintered here in Shenandoah among the pine trees. -- MRS. W. C. DeLONG, Box 278 Shenandoah.

PRAIRIE FLOWERS AT SPRINGBROOK--In 1953 I attended a three weeks' session of the University of Northern Iowa at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center, Iowa. One week was devoted to the study of wild flowers. At the recent Iowa Ornithologist Union's fall meeting, September 23 and 24, 1967, Mr. Partidge, the Conservation Officer in charge at Springbrook, took a few of us to the same cemetery where our instructor took us back in 1953 to study Iowa's native wild flowers.

A small section of this cemetery is kept mowed, but there is a vast area that has been left in native prairie with all the native flowers such as rattle snake master, the compass plant, purple cone flower and blazing star. It is interesting to be able to see the New Jersey tea, a native shrub that grew on the prairie. Most of these flowers had gone to seed, but the purple aster was aflame in color. The most interesting flower of all to see was the prairie gentian that was in full bloom. This was a first for me. Just as we were getting ready to leave and go back to the park, a flock of Pine Siskins flew into a large pine tree. They gave their characteristic Goldfinch-like call as they perched for a few minutes on the branches and then bounced away to the south.--MRS. W.C. DeLONG, Box 278, Shenandoah.

THE GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN, A REAL ANTIQUE--The alarm clock sounded at 2:00 a.m. early one Saturday morning, April 22, 1967. Our destination was Burchard Lake, Nebraska, one hundred miles from Shenandoah, Iowa,

to see the courtship dance of the Greater Prairie Chickens. We must arrive, we were told, before dawn so we could get our car parked on the knoll near the lake.

My husband's father used to relate to his children how in the early pioneer days of southern Iowa, the male Prairie Chickens would come to a certain place every morning and perform a booming dance ritual for a certain lady hen. This tale had so interested my husband in his youth that when he heard of a place in Nebraska where one could still see this bird, he was ready to go, even though it meant getting up that early in the morning.

We were not disappointed, for as soon as the first rays of dawn came over the horizon we began to see activity in the tall grass and gradually they made their way to the top of the knoll. Over thirty roosters came to that knoll, strutted, and inflated their air sacks. While a rooster was booming, inflating his orange air sack, he would lift his tail feathers and drop his wings like a turkey gobbler. Occasionally one would leap off the ground high into the air. The booming sounded like the tolling of a deep-toned bell. Sometimes there would be fights between the males, but we never did see actual combat. Usually one would back away and continue booming in another place. We saw several hens circling around within the dancing grounds, until apparently tiring of this show of vanity, they flew away. These Prairie Chickens circled all around our car, not seeming to mind this foreign object on their knoll. This booming show continued until 7:30 when suddenly they all flew away in the direction from whence they came. On our way home we stopped at several antique joints, but we had seen the greatest antique of all - the vanishing Greater Prairie Chicken. -- MRS. W. C. DELONG, Box 278, Shenandoah.

POSSIBLE NESTING OF THE VEERY--On 6 August, 1967, in the Boy Scout Camp on the Des Moines River in Boone Co, Albert Berkowitz and I flushed a Veery. The bird remained in the immediate vicinity, and shortly thereafter a second Veery appeared, this one carrying a worm. We hoped to see young being fed, but after a long wait the Veery swallowed the worm and we assumed it was reluctant to reveal the location of the nest. There are June records of singing Veeries in 1956, 1962, and 1964, but in the past 20 years there are no reports in IOWA BIRD LIFE of nests being found. DuMont wrote "There are no recent breeding records in Iowa." --WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT DAVENPORT--For the second time a Black-legged Kittiwake has been recorded in Iowa. On December 17, 1967, an immature of this species was seen at Lock and Dam #15, downtown Davenport by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink of East Moline, Illinois. The bird was seen the next day by the author and W. M. Lonacker and subsequently seen by Elton Fawks, Larry and Robert Dau, Frank Rodl, Allen Carlson and others. Mr. Lonacker was able to obtain some excellent movies and slides (see cuts) to document the record. All observations were made at Lock and Dam 15 except on December 22 and 23 when it was at Lock and Dam #14 near Pleasant Valley. It was usually seen feeding in the company of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Many times it flew quite close (about forty feet) over the corner of the Davenport Levee parking lot nearest the dam. The last observation was December 29 by Mrs. Warren Wickstrom. During the period of the Kittiwake's presence over two thousand gulls were present in the Lock 14 and 15 area, illustrating the need to closely examine large groups of common species. PETER PETERSEN, JR.--235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.



Views of Black-legged Kittiwake with Ring-billed Gull in upper left.
Photos by W. M. Lonnecker

BOOK REVIEWS



RADAR ORNITHOLOGY--Eric Eastwood--Barnes and Noble, Inc., New York --278 p., many photos and live drawings--1967--\$12.00.

For the first time an entire volume is devoted to the complex and fascinating subject of bird observation by means of radar and its application to ornithology. Many articles have appeared in the ornithological literature recently and a single reference source for background information will make them more readable and valuable to the average bird watcher. As the author is British he may be unfamiliar to many, but he is recognized as a leader in this field. Many examples deal with American research.

After explaining the principals of radar the author shows how the data is extracted and put on film for study. He then covers the interpretation of the data and determination of what was observed. The study of bird migration and movement is discussed, with one chapter dealing with North America. Other specific areas, such as altitude determination, counting, and flight behavior are explained. The final chapter deals with the future of this work and the organization of radar research in ornithology. Any serious bird student, especially one interested in migration, will wish to read this fine book. ed.

THE BIRDS OF AMERICA--John James Audubon--Reprinted by Dover Publications, New York, New York--7 volumes, a total of 2183 p., 500 plates, 92 drawings--1967--\$2.50 per volume, paperbound.

The full text and plates (not in color) of the 1840 edition of Audubon's monumental work, the first reprinting since 1871. Included are 500 presumed species which Audubon recognized. The index at the end of the final volume brings the nomenclature up to date and shows the reader Audubon's errors in speciation. For each species the habitation, feeding habits, eggs, nest, plumage, range, size, and miscellaneous pertinent background data are given.

As is usually the case, Dover has provided another ornithological classic at a fair price and very nicely reprinted. Birders with an interest in the historical background and former status of our birds will wish to obtain this fine set. Librarians also will find that, despite its original publication date it is a valuable reference book today. ed.

PICTORIAL CHECKLIST OF COLORADO BIRDS -- Alfred M. Bailey and Robert J. Niedrach -- Denver Museum of Natural History--Folio size, 416 pp., 124 colored plates, 23 photographs, map on end sheets -- 1967--\$10.00.

During the past two years, the bird journals have been echoing the praises of **BIRDS OF COLORADO**, by Bailey and Niedrach, published in 1965. This sumptuous work, in two large volumes, was the latest in State bird books and was one of the most ambitious undertakings in this field, rivalling or surpassing such productions as **BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA**, by Dawson, **BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES**, by Forbush, and, nearer to home, **BIRDS OF MINNESOTA**, by Roberts.

Certainly the plaudits were well deserved, for the book had everything that could be asked for, containing as it did the most up to date information on the entire roster of Colorado birds, presented in 1175 pages and illustrated by 124 colored plates depicting 420 species and about 700 individual birds -- the work of 23 bird artists. Accompanying the text were more than 400 photographs selected carefully by the authors. The book culminated forty years of study of Colorado birds by the two men in all areas of the state and at all seasons of the year. It could be called almost a lifetime achievement.

The condensed version of "BIRDS OF COLORADO, which we are reviewing here, is intended for those who want a smaller book at a moderate price. Colorado's high rank as a vacation state brings thousands of visitors each year. Those who are bird-minded now will have an excellent reference companion for their Colorado tours. Intraveling from prairieland in eastern Colorado to above timberline levels in the high Rockies, in the course of a few hours the bird student experiences temperature changes and finds associated animal and plant life forms similar to those he would find in Canada and Alaska. Such a diversity of flora and fauna is found in very few states.

In the condensed book all 124 colored plates of the original work are included. The work of 23 artists, some of them of international reputation, makes an interesting study in itself, for the variations in style and differences in techniques furnish many comparisons. Only 23 of the 400 photographs in the two-volume work were retained, rather a serious loss. The introductory chapters are concerned with Topography, Life Zones, and Migration in Colorado. These are followed by 130 pages of text giving recognition marks, ranges, and the present status of each of the 441 species and 64 subspecies of birds found in Colorado and neighboring states.

Here is a book of great beauty and usefulness. It contains nearly all the birds found in Iowa, and it should have great appeal for Iowa bird students. The price is less than one-third of the two-volume work. As an added bonus there is a beautiful color painting of Black-billed Magpies flying through aspens in the autumn color for which Colorado is famous. This picture, by Donald L. Mallick who is a staff artist for the Denver Museum, issued on the jacket and did not appear in the two-volume edition.

We feel envious of Colorado for having these two dedicated ornithologists, Doctors Bailey and Niedrach, who have combined their own talents and enlisted the aid of others to delineate their bird life in such magnificent form. F.J. Pierce

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS (Paper-bound Edition) -- Roger Tory Peterson -- Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston -- xxiv & 290 pp., 1000 illustrations, 500 in color -- 1968 -- \$2.95.

The Peterson Field Guide is a success story having few parallels. Roger Tory Peterson in the early 1930's was a young ornithologist and artist who had a new idea for a bird identification guide. He made drawings on which the birds' field marks were pointed out and given prominence, so that the bird looked as it would at a little distance, and the observer would know what diagnostic features or marks would facilitate identification. The publishers he contacted were not enthusiastic, but Houghton Mifflin agreed to try a small initial edition, which came out in 1934. The book was an immediate success. Printing after printing flowed from the presses in succeeding years. The Eastern Field Guide was revised in 1939, and completely redone in 1947 with many colored plates and nearly all new illustrative equipment. A companion FIELD GUIDE

TO WESTERN BIRDS was published in 1941; it was redone with new colored plates in 1961.

In addition to these, Peterson produced A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF TEXAS (1960), and, with Guy Mountfort and P.A. D. Hollom, A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE (1954). The Peterson bird books, including the famous Field Guides and his half dozen other books, have sold over four million copies, a truly staggering total, and have brought to the author international honors and acclaim.

The FIELD GUIDE TO THE (EASTERN) BIRDS now makes its appearance in a paperback and is the 38th printing of the book. The paperback is a familiar trend in books, and is always welcome since a serviceable edition is made available at a lower price. The new Peterson paperback is well made and sturdy and should stand up under the punishment that field guides get. It will serve thousands of newcomers and increase the debt already owed to the remarkable Roger Tory Peterson. -- F. J. Pierce.

NEW MEMBERS



New Members for 1968 up to February 15, 1968. All Iowa unless otherwise noted.

Edwin Cook, 2509 Meadowdale, Ottumwa.

Robert Dau, 1120 Brown Street, Bettendorf.

Mrs. Paul Elswick, Lamoni.

Charles Engelken, Greeley.

Richard M. Evans, 117 Butler Avenue, Waterloo.

John Flaherty, 1207 H. Avenue, Grundy Center.

John J. Flaherty, 5002 N. Pine Street, Davenport.

Mrs. J. Curtis Frymoyer, Wilton Junction.

Jeffery Kern, 4331 Greenwood Drive, Des Moines.

Gale McClean, Route 1, Wilton Junction.

Mrs. Sheila Mama, 111 35th Street, Des Moines.

Dr. Barton Morgan, 917 Ridgewood, Ames.

Mrs. W. C. Peterson, Beeds Lake, Box 111, Hampton.

Tom Schaefer, Scattergood School, West Branch.

Mrs. Raymond Sorensen, 320 West Washington, Winterset.

Mrs. Ivan Templeton, Route 1, Corning.

G. Bernard VanCleve, 348 S. Highland Avenue, Apt. 202, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Cover

This year we are most fortunate to have a beautiful cover design of Cedar Waxwings drawn by Mrs. Carol Rudy of Summit Lake, Wisconsin. Mrs. Rudy has done covers for INLAND BIRD BANDING NEWS and does a fine job on watercolors of birds. Since no funds are available for art work the editor is always on the lookout for artists willing to provide a cover design for a volume. ed.